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## Richard C. Bridges to sister, 25 October 1861

Richard C. Bridges

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Dear Sister

Camp Fisher near Dumfries  
on the Potomac Oct 25<sup>th</sup> 1861

Your letter together with M's came to hand yesterday and I hasten to answer it as this may be my last chance soon. The reason why I write that this may be my last chance is because there is a report in circulation throughout camp that we will leave this place tonight. This is no official order but merely a camp report. I know we are menaced every day by a daring and tricky adversary and are liable to be attacked any day therefore I would not be surprised if we were called on to fight at any moment. I have written to you several times about our batteries we are erecting on the banks of the Potomac. I will now tell you they are a complete success we have succeeded in completely blockading the Potomac one of the Rebels best sources of transporting troops to the City of Washington. Besides this we have captured two war steamers heavily laden with hay and whiskey we have also sent several of their white flagged ships limping back to their owners. When I first came here I could climb up a certain sapling on an eminence and see their steamers and vessels prowling along the Potomac in fine style and in the presence of their friends at a bad business on our shores now. You will have heard of the fight at Leesburg ere this shall reach you through the press. Now for fear you shall receive false reports about it I will tell you what I have heard from reliable persons who were there. Six regiments of the Yankee mercenaries crossed the Potomac near the town of Leesburg and attacked Gen Davis' brigade or the 7<sup>th</sup> brigade consisting of two Mississippi (the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>) regiments and one Virginia (the 8<sup>th</sup>). So that there was two to one against us. The official report sent to our regiment by Gen. Johnson says that the fight lasted from early dawn and lasted until night and



resulted in our troops driving the vandals across the Potomac  
with the loss on their side of six pieces of cannon and 520  
prisoners besides a large quantity of small arms  
Our General does not say how many was killed on either side  
He only says their loss was great and does not mention  
ours at all Report says their <sup>was</sup> 1,500 killed wounded  
and prisoners while ours was 300 killed wounded and  
missing. Many of the enemy were drowned in rushing  
in to their boats and sinking them So says report  
One thing certain we have gained a great victory  
and in my humble opinion a greater one than  
that which was achieved on the Plains of Manassas  
because it was accomplished with less loss on our  
side in proportion to the numbers engaged  
Since then I hear the Yankees have again crossed at the  
same place with a larger force than ever how true  
this ~~was~~ is I cannot tell I hardly believe it If they  
have all I have to say is "Welcome be Cumberland  
steed to the choicest, Such a cause Such soldiers and  
Such Generals <sup>as</sup> we have can whip the world With god  
and our right on our side we can defy the angels  
of the infernal regions Set alone the legions of  
Abraham Lincoln We fight with Freedom's soil beneath  
<sup>our feet</sup> and Freedom's banner waving over us With such a  
cause Sister I will fight until the frosts of three  
score years and ten shall whiten my locks  
Speaking of frosts I can tell you we had one of those  
you read of this morning I am tolerable comfortable only  
I want a blanket or so bad Tell ma to send them first  
chance An overcoat too would not be objectionable My clothes  
are the very thing I mean those that ma sent me, I have rece-  
ed \$44 pay and will probably receive some more soon  
Therefore you need not send me any more